

Message Text

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ACTION EA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 INR-05 CIAE-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00

SP-02 PM-03 PA-01 PRS-01 H-01 L-01 IO-06 DHA-02

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FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7565

INFO AMEMBASSY MANILA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SINGAPORE 1636

LIMDIS

(CORRECTED COPY PARA 2 LNS 15 & 16)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SN

SUBJECT: HOLBROOKE MEETING WITH LEE KUAN YEW

1. ASSISTANT SECRETARY HOLBROOKE PARTICIPATED IN A LENGTHY TOUR D'HORIZON WITH PRIME MINISTER LEE KUAN YEW DURING DINNER GIVEN EVENING OF APRIL 16 BY THE PRIME MINISTER AT THE ISTANA. DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER GOH, FOREIGN MINISTER RAJARATNAM, MRS. LEE, MRS. HOLBROOKE AND CHARGE ALSO ATTENDED.

2. LEE EXPOUNDED AT GREAT LENGTH HIS FOREBODINGS CONCERNING THE RELENTLESS GROWTH OF SOVIET POWER AND THE PERSISTENT EROSION OF THE WESTERN POSITION SINCE 1965. HOLBROOKE STRESSED THAT THE PERIOD OF DECLINE IN AMERICAN POWER AND INFLUENCE HAD
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COME TO AN END. THE PRESIDENT WAS IN THE PROCESS OF BUILDING THE CONFIDENCE AND SUPPORT OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE IN THEIR GOVERNMENT, WHICH WAS ESSENTIAL FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A FOREIGN POLICY THAT WOULD HALT THE EROSION OF THE U.S. POSITION AND RESTORE THE APPROPRIATE LEVEL OF AMERICAN POWER AND INFLUENCE. PRIME MINISTER, A CLOSE STUDENT OF AMERICAN POLITICS, REPEATEDLY ACKNOWLEDGED IMPORTANCE OF THIS FACTOR.

HOLBROOKE SPELLED OUT THE KEY ELEMENTS OF THE EVOLVING U.S. POLICY IN EAST ASIA, INDICATING THOSE AREAS WHERE POLICY DECISIONS STILL HAD TO BE TAKEN. HE SAID HE WOULD CONTINUE TO KEEP LEE INFORMED OF OUR POLICY AS IT DEVELOPED AND WOULD APPRECIATE HIS COMMENTS AND SUPPORT. LEE APPEARED TO BE GENUINELY APPRECIATIVE OF HOLBROOKE'S CANDID EXPOSITION OF DEVELOPING U.S. POLICY, INDICATED SOME SKEPTICISM WHETHER THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WOULD BE PREPARED TO SUPPORT THE HARD DECISIONS WHICH WOULD BE NECESSARY IN DEVELOPING A VIABLE POLICY AND SAID HE WOULD KEEP HIS FINGERS CROSSED.

3. HOLBROOKE DISCUSSED IN GENERAL TERMS IMPORTANCE OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN OVERALL U.S. FOREIGN POLICY. PRIME MINISTER ACKNOWLEDGED THIS, BUT URGED THAT OUR HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY BE AS BROADLY BASED AS POSSIBLE. OTHERWISE THE U.S. WOULD RISK ALIENATING ALL BUT A HANDFUL OF COUNTRIES. HE MADE SHARP DISTINCTION BETWEEN TREATMENT OF COMMUNISTS, WHO "THREATEN OUR SURVIVAL", AND NON-COMMUNISTS.

4. AMONG KEY POINTS OF U.S. POLICY IN EAST ASIA (SEE PARA 2 ABOVE), HOLBROOKE SAID WE WOULD NOT SPEAK TO ASIA THROUGH TOKYO, ALTHOUGH JAPAN WAS A KEY ELEMENT IN OUR WORLDWIDE POLICY. LEE STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF U.S. CONTINUING CLOSE DIRECT TIES WITH ALL FRIENDLY COUNTRIES IN THIS REGION.

5. EMBASSY WILL POUCH TO EA FRONT OFFICE IN DRAFT FULL REPORT OF CONVERSATION.

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Message Attributes

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